

Whatcom County Council Public Works & Health Committee

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010**



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

10:40 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE
REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR
CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Ben Elenbaas
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee Chair Jon Scanlon called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Jon Scanlon, Mark Strempler, and Ben Elenbaas

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, and Kaylee Galloway

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2025-093](#) Report from the Public Works Department

Scanlon stated they would reschedule this item for a future meeting.

This agenda item was NOT ACTED UPON.
2. [AB2024-845](#) Presentation by the Health and Community Services Department on Center for Retention and Expansion of Child Care Funding

Ann Beck, Health and Community Services, introduced the presentation about the Center for Retention and Expansion of Child Care Funding (CRECC).

Laurie Saling, Opportunity Council, presented data that shows the need for childcare in our community and what CRECC is doing to meet the need. She answered whether they are seeing any consistent issues for childcare businesses around codes or permitting that the Council should look at, and she spoke about changes already made to county code and possible issues around fence height regulations and septic system sizes.

Buchanan thanked her for their work on the past code changes concerning the number of children allowed in a family childcare so that it matches the licensing regulations.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.
3. [AB2025-104](#) Update from Health and Community Services on the Healthy Children's Fund

Sarah Simpson, Health and Community Services, read from a presentation (on file) regarding an update on the subsidy program, the implementation team working on the implementation plan, the RAPID Survey which is a collection community-level data used to support families and caregivers, and key contracts.

Donovan stated they are interested in how many childcare slots have been created, and data about whether services are being utilized. He asked about the Healthy Children's Fund Table (on file) and why there are more executed contracts for things other than childcare.

Ann Beck, Health and Community Services, spoke about the contracts and stated many of the executed contracts were under the \$40,000 threshold so they were executed more quickly.

Simpson answered questions about the status of contracts (in the fund recipient column) in the fund table. She answered what the timing is for bringing the implementation plan to Council, and stated it is due to Council at the end of March. She answered when the RAPID Survey closes and stated the first survey closed on December 19th and they are hoping to launch the second at the beginning of March. She stated they will get some results from the survey around the middle of February.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Jon Scanlon-via email 2/10/2025

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Jon Scanlon, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

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